The Canadian Philatelist.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF STAMP COLLECTING.

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Written for THE CANADIAN PAILATELIST.

QUERY.

Was it on a Kansas prairie,
In the days of '49,
Near a smashed up prairie-schooner,
That I saw that fearful sign?
Was it that which down in Texas,
Broke off short our driver's "cuss,"
With the Llano Estacado
Twenty miles to South of us?
Was it high up in the Rockies
That it told its tale of woe,
Blinding blast and then starvation,
'Neath a monstrous drift of snow?
Was it in Nevada's desert
That I saw it, stark and white,
With an arrow through one eye-hole
And no other thing in sight?
Was it with the vultures near it?
Did coyotes sneak away?
Ah! I know now where I saw it,
It is all as plain as day:—
That grim cow's skull, white and death-like,
That I have been looking for,—
On the stamps of old Roumania,
On my album's page, I saw.

CHAS. E. JENNEY.

Written for THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

WHY THIS MANIA?

CAN anyone advance a reason for the collecting of postage stamps? A *real* reason; not a superficial theory. It will generally serve to rehearse the advantages of collecting as an aid to the study of history and geography; that the pursuit fosters the study of art, color and design; that in the making of a collection, neatness and the habit of close observation are formed. These, and many other ideas never before thought of, are brought forth to prove that stamp collecting is the most profitable amusement on earth. But do *you* collect these interesting bits of paper for instruction or amusement alone? I am sure you do not, and although I will not undertake to solve the problem unaided, I can at least present some ideas for consideration.

Perhaps in the first stage of your collecting career you are attracted toward those stamps whose brilliant colors or unique designs appeal to your artistic eye. Perhaps, while looking over a friend's collection, you are seized with a desire to emulate him, either by securing a greater number of varieties or possessing a larger lot of Seebecks. You like to see the pages of your album slowly filling. After a few months this rivalry becomes monotonous, and you find that there is pleasure in filling up certain pages of your album, learning about the various stamp issuing countries, etc.

As an advanced collector, you delight in examining slight varieties, errors and such matters. You collect what pleases you, and let all other stamps alone. Perhaps each country is represented by one stamp only, and yet you delight in your collection as much as if it were ten times as large. Can you give the reason of this?

You glance through a catalogue, and pick out, one by one, the stamps you expect to secure. Then a number of want lists are sent off to various dealers. The stamps come, and with what delight do you examine the specimens with a view to purchase! How pleased you are to receive the much desired specimens in an immaculate, unused condition! And what a pleasant task to mount them in the spaces assigned.

I revere the memory of William Shakespeare, who, with his usual foresight, truly said, "There is method in this madness."

WALTER A. WITHROW.

Written for the CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

GENERAL CANADIAN NEWS.

The new 1c. and 2c. letter cards are having a very small sale, and may be withdrawn.

* *

At the recent election of officers of *The Toronto Philatelic Club*, Mr. W. H. Brouse, the well-known B. N. A. specialist, was elected president.

* *

Mr. W. S. Wetherston, the Canadian Vice-President of the P. S. of A. has resigned, as he intends to remove from Toronto to New York City.

* *

The *Ontario Philatelist* has just appeared from St. Catharines, Ont. Although typographically poor, its contents are readable, and I wish the publishers every success in their venture.

* *

The first auction sale of the Montreal Stamp Club takes place Thursday, April 23, at 8 p. m. Mr. E. W. Stanton, of 398 St. Andre St., Montreal, Que., will, I understand, furnish a catalogue of the sale on application.

* *

The auction sale of Mr. T. S. Clark, held in Toronto, on March the 18th, was well attended, but, as a rule, prices realized were only fair, and a number of the best stamps were not sold, being bid in by their owner.

* *

There appears to be a large number of the red weight and measure stamps on the market at present. Within the last few months the price of this stamp has dropped from $10 to $2 for unused copies; used are seldom met with.

* *

In handling some ½c. current Canadian stamps, I secured two unused strips of four, bearing imprint of British American Bank Note Co., and plate numbers 1 and 2. These are the first Canadian stamps that I have notiçed with plate number. I will keep a careful lookout for others.

* *

I have seen the current Canadian post card on thick, spongy card-board, instead of the hard glazed card in general use. It looks as if only a few of these were issued, as my post office only received one lot of the cards on the thick spongy card-board, the lots subsequently received being printed on the hard glazed card-board.

* *

To the best of my knowledge, there are only three philatelic papers being published in Canada: *The Canadian Philatelist*, *The Canadian Philatelic Magazine*, and *The Ontario Philatelist*. However, three new papers have recently been announced. From London we may expect *The London Stamp and Coin Journal*, a quarterly, to be published by the London Stamp Co., and "*Stamp Lore*," a monthly, which will be issued by the Commercial Printing Co. From the prospectus of this last named paper I am led to look for something out of the ordinary. The promoters of the paper state that it will be printed in three colors. If both these papers materialize, London will enjoy the unique distinction of having three philatelic journals. *The All-around Stamp Advertiser* is announced to appear from St. Hyacinthe, Que., and will consist of advertisements only. There are several philatelic journals of this class published in Europe, but none in America.

W. CULLEN BROWN

THE CANADIAN PHILATELIST.

An Illustrated Monthly for Stamp Collectors.

L. M. STAEBLER, - Editor and Publisher.

Member of Canadian Philatelic Association; Philatelic Sons of America, etc.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Subscription Rates.—Twenty-five cents per year to any part of the world; payable strictly in advance.

All Subscriptions must begin with current issue. In order to avoid missing any numbers, renewals should be sent me at least one month before your subscription expires. The paper is invariably discontinued if renewal does not reach me on expiration of subscription.

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The Editor's Table.

IN 1894 the Canadian P.O. Department saw fit to cancel the second-class mailing privileges enjoyed by *The Canadian Philatelist*. This circumstance, and the lack of time to devote to the publication, made it necessary for me to discontinue the paper. All subscriptions have been satisfactorily filled by *The Collector* and its successor, *The International Stamp*. Notwithstanding the fact that the paper has not been published for a year back, I still receive subscriptions to it. Many of my old subscribers have expressed the wish that I should resurrect the journal, and I have decided to permanently re-establish *The Canadian Philatelist*, and hope to receive the support of the subscribers and advertisers who in the past have so liberally patronized the paper. Previously, the usual size of the paper has been 16 pages and cover; but, unless I am successful in again securing second-class rates, I cannot promise more than 4 to 8 pages per issue. I will endeavor to exclude any of the contributions which many editors use as "space-fillers," and will thus be able to publish nothing but first-class reading. Among the regular monthly features will be half-tone portraits and sketches of prominent collectors and dealers, "General Canadian News," "General European News," "From over the Border" and "Correspondence." Various useful and timely articles by the best writers will appear from time to time. Date of publication is the 10th, and to secure insertion all matter must reach me by the 5th.

Again in the Field.

***

DURING the past three years the holding of auction sales of stamps has increased to a great degree, and I have no doubt that to a certain extent it has affected the trade of dealers in rare stamps; but, everything considered, I do not think it has had any serious effect on the trade. The auction business has been the means, in a large number of cases, of establishing correct prices on stamps which were underpriced in the catalogue, and which very few dealers could supply. I do not wish to be understood as saying that all auction prices are correct; but, as a rule, if you take the average price which a stamp has brought at various sales, you will not be far off its correct value. The large numbers of auctions now being held, and the prices realized, indicate the increasing demand for rare stamps, and the general progress and prosperity of our science. Among the April auctions I may mention Geo. E. Cleaver's mail auction of philatelic literature, which closed on the 3rd. F. J. Stanton's 82nd mail auction will close on the 15th. Mr. Henry Gremmel held a sale on the 2nd, and good prices were realized. C. H. Holden's 17th mail sale closed on the 4th. The 140th sale of the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. is to take place on the 15th. Its contents include a fine lot of Spanish stamps. The New England Stamp Co. hold a sale on the 13th. The 62nd Bogert and Durbin sale takes place on the 11th. The Chicago Philatelic Society hold their 36th sale on the evening of the 14th. The 4th mail sale of the U. S. Stamp Co. (Minneapolis) was closed on the 3rd, at noon. The 5th sale of the same firm will close on the 25th. S. H. and H. Chapman, the well-known coin dealers, will sell at auction on the 14th and 15th the stock of the late John W. Kline, one of America's veteran dealers. Messrs. Puttick & Simpson, literary and fine art auctioneers, of London, England, hold an important sale on the 20th and 21st. A number of others I am compelled to omit for want of space.

April Auctions.

***

SPECIALISM and scientific collecting are all very well in their way, but they certainly have caused many a beginner to throw up stamp collecting. Personally, I am a specialist, and favor scientific collecting; but this has not blinded me to the true state of affairs. Scientific collecting has led to the discovery and recognition by our so-called standard catalogues of innumerable minor varieties, some of which are too insignificant to be accorded a place in even a specialist's collection. Perforations of all sizes, paper of all textures, the slightest errors in engraving and printing, have been duly catalogued, together with watermarked varieties, both regular and inverted; and, as a result, many a collector has become discouraged. I know many who have given up collecting for this very reason. It must be remembered that fully fifty per cent. of the vast army of stamp collectors take no interest in varieties of perforation, watermark, etc.; and when these have spaces provided for them in the albums, and are listed in the catalogues, it is anything but encouraging to the ordinary collector, who considers a country complete exclusive of these minor varieties. Of course, from the ranks of the beginners come the scientific collectors of the future, but the transition from one stage of the collecting career to the other must be gradual. A forced growth from a beginner to a scientific collector, such as the present albums and catalogues encourage, is not without the danger of the loss of some of Philately's most ardent followers. What is required to remedy this state of affairs? To my mind there can be but one way to dispose of the difficulty. What we require is two distinct editions of our Standard Catalogues—one for the beginners, another for the scientific collector,—the former to omit all minor varieties. Mr. J. W. Scott, of the J. W. Scott Co., Limited, recognizing the need and value of such a book, has recently pre-

Philately's Danger.

pared an edition of his catalogue which omits all distinction of paper, watermark, perforation. etc., which he is supplying to the trade at a very low rate, enabling them to retail it at a nominal figure—25 cents. This is a step in the right direction. A catalogue of this description, and at this price, will have a large sale, and fill a long-felt want. However, the catalogue of the J. W. Scott Co. is not recognized as the Standard, the prices in many cases being far from correct; consequently, it is improbable that the catalogue will ever be adopted for general use. Now, were the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. to issue two distinct editions of their popular, though far from perfect, catalogue, as Mr. J. W. Scott has done, publishing albums on the same lines, the difficulty would be to a great extent solved; and I have no doubt that both catalogues and albums would have a largely increased sale, and cause a revival among many whose interest in stamp collecting has flagged. If this were carried into effect, the scientific collector would have a catalogue dealing with all varieties, which he studies so carefully, while the ordinary collectors would have an edition free from the varieties in which they take no interest. Philately's advancement during the past few years has been phenomenal. I trust that for the sake of the future of our science, the day will not be far distant when we will be able to obtain two such editions of the S. S. and C. C.'s catalogue, or some other equally as good.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

FROM OVER THE BORDER.

Seebeck is making hay while the sun shines. The 1896 issues for Salvador and Nicaragua are out.

* *

Mr. Theodore Toppell, a well-known New York dealer, formerly with the Bogert and Durbin Co., died a few days ago.

* *

In purchasing the U. S. 1861 10c. variety, caution should be exercised, as there is a very good counterfeit of this stamp being circulated.

* *

State Philatelic Directories are the order of the day. Mr. E. W. Hensinger, of San Antonio, announces the publication of *The Texas Philatelic Directory.*

* *

The Eastern Philatelist recently published an able article on the ribbed paper varieties of the United States, which stamps are at present receiving considerable attention from our leading specialists.

* *

A bill has been introduced in Congress which provides that any city of over 100,000 population may issue a special set of stamps commemorating events in its history. If the bill passes, it may have the effect of adding thousands of new collectors to our ranks.

* *

The government of the Republic of Cuba, whose headquarters are at present in New York City, has issued a set of stamps. Although these stamps will not at present do postal duty, they are having a good sale. Apparently there are many sympathizers with the Cuban cause among the vast army of stamp collectors.

* *

The now fast approaching annual elections of the A. P. A., S. of P. and P. S. of A., are already becoming a subject of discussion. Messrs. O. K. Carstarphen. of Denver, Roy F. Green, and R. W. Ashscroft, are among the candidates for the presidency of the latter society; while for the same office in the former the names of Mr. P. M. Wolsieffer, of Chicago, and Dr. S. G. Stein, of Muscatine, are suggested.

HENRY F. DOYLE.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

GENERAL CONTINENTAL NEWS.

An important philatelic exhibition will be held July 17th to 22nd in The Hague, Holland. I expect to be able to give particulars in my next letter.

* *

According to *The South African Philatelist*, the Natal 1d. rose, surcharged "Zululand" is spurious. It was never issued for use in that country.

* *

The accepted design for the new French stamp is receiving considerable adverse comment here. We certainly would be justified in expecting something better from a country that stands so high in the world of art.

* *

At the meeting of the City of London Philatelic Club, held on the evening of the 23rd ult., a tintometer was exhibited, a contrivance which is valuable for determining the colors of stamps. There was a large attendance at this meeting.

* *

A correspondent informs me that on June 5th the government of Ecuador will issue a series of seven stamps, which will only be available for postage on that and the following ten days. The issue is intended to commemorate the victory of the people over the government that humiliated the country by the sale of the cruiser Esmeralda.

* *

I notice in *The Australian Stamp Collector* that the Central Exploration Co. recently sold to the Black Flag Mining Co. leases of some sixty-six acres of land for a consideration of £525,000. The duty on the transfer amounted to £2,625, and in order to provide a stamp for this amount the government of Western Australia surcharged a 1d. revenue stamp, "£2625." This stamp is unique, and it may well be called an unobtainable rarity.

* *

The Philatelic Society, of Geneva, Switzerland, have just announced that they will hold an International Exhibition of Postage Stamps in the Museum of Decorative Arts, one of the finest public buildings of that beautiful little Swiss city, Geneva. The exhibition will be held August 8 to 23, inclusive, and it will undoubtedly be a success. The well-known collectors on the committee of arrangements justify this supposition. This society is one of the best of our continental societies, and among its members are such prominent philatelists as Messrs. M. P. Castle, of Brighton; Dr. E. Diena, of Modena; J. Bernichon, of Paris; C. Muriset-Gicot, of Geneva; J Joerin-Suter, of Basle, and many others.

A. J. RINNERS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Under this heading I will publish any correspondence of interest to my readers, and answer such questions of general interest as may be submitted.

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TERMS:—One cent per word each insertion, payable in advance. No exchange notice will be received for less than 25 cents. No display allowed.

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Azores, Jubilee, 5 reis, orange yellow	$ 03
*Belgium, 1895, unpaid, 5c., lilac	03
*Barbadoes, 1852, ½d., blue, blue paper	2 80
Barbadoes, 1882, 2½, blue	06
*Brazil, 1894, 10 reis, blue and red	02
Brazil, unpaid, 1889, 100 reis, carmine	08
Brazil, unpaid, 1890, 200 reis, mauve	10
British Columbia, 1868, 2c., brown	1 50
*British East Africa, ½ a. to 1 r., 10 varieties	1 50
*British East Africa, ½ a. to 5 r., 15 var., complete.	8 00
*British South Africa, ½d. to 1 sh., 8 varieties	1 45
*British Honduras, 1891-95, 1 to 24c., 8 varieties	1 60
*Bulgaria, 1895, 1 s. or 2 s., dark green	02
Canada, 1852, 3d., wove paper, fine	35
Canada, 1852, 3d., wove paper, fair	25
Canada, 1858, 3d., ribbed paper,	2 00
Canada, 1858, 3d., perforated	2 75
Canada, 1859, 1c., pink	07
Canada, 1859, 5c., vermilion	03
Canada, 1859, 10c., violet	40
Canada, 1859, 12½c., green	40
Canada, 1859, 17c., blue	1 35
Canada, 1864, 2c., pink	95
*Canada, 1868, ½c., black, no gum	16
Canada, 1868, ½c., black	14
Canada, 1868, 1c., red-brown	15
*Canada, 1868, 2c., green	45
Canada, 1868 2c., green	08
Canada, 1868, 3c., red	03
Canada, 1868, 6c., brown	08
Canada, 1868, 3c., watermarked	1 30
Canada, 1869, 1c., yellow, large	24
Canada, 1870, 3c., laid paper, very fine	4 00
Canada, 1870, 3c., laid paper, not well centered	2 20
Canada, 1872, 6c., brown	03
*Canada, 1875, 5c., olive green	1 65
Canada, 1875, 5c., olive green	50
Canada, 1891, 6c., rich chocolate	02
*Canada, 1892, 20c., vermilion	25
*Canada, 1892, 50c., dark blue	65
Canada, 1892, 50c., dark blue	30
Canada, 1892, 8c., slate, very fine	02
*Canada, Register, 2c., orange	20
Canada, Register, 2c., orange, fine	03
Canada Register, 2c., carmine, fine	15
Canada, Register, 5c., yellow-green	05
Canada, Register, 5c., blue-green	03
*Canada, Envelope, current, 3c., laid paper, entire.	06
Canada, Envelope, 1891, 3c., *wove* paper, entire	3 00
Canada, Envelope, 1891, 3c., *wove* paper, sq. cut	1 50
*Canada, Post Card, 1877, 2c., green	09
*Canada, Post Card, 1879, 2c., green	05
*Canada, 1892, Reply Card, 1 x 1c., slate	04
*Canada, Bill Stamps, 1st issue, $2 & $3, o.g., the pair	4 00
*Cape of Good Hope, triangular, 1d., fine, no gum	1 00
Cape of Good Hope, triangular, 1d.	60
*Cape of Good Hope triangular, 4d., no gum	70
Cape of Good Hope, triangular, 4d	35
Ceylon, 1883, 4c., lilac-rose	07
Ceylon, 1888, 2c. on 4c. rose. (Scott's No. 123.)	10
*Congo, Free State, 1895, 5c., brown and black	03
*Cuba, 1871, 50c., green	02
Cuba, 1891, 10c., claret	02
*Faridkot, 1887-88, native type, 18 varieties, a fine set	2 50
Great Britain, 1848, 10d., brown	2 00
Great Britain, Official, ½d., slate	09
Great Britain, Official, ½d., vermilion	05
Grenada, 1875, 4d., blue	1 30
Nova Scotia, 10c, vermilion, yellowish paper	1 70
*Queensland, 1861, Registered, yellow	5 00
*Straits Settlements, 1887, 3c., on 32c., violet rose	15
*Trindad, 1851, 1d., brown-violet, bluish paper	4 00
*Trindad, 1851, 1d., brown, bluish paper	2 90
*Trinidad, 1854, 1d., dull violet	4 75
*U. S. Executive Department, 5 varieties, complete	45 00
*U. S. Interior Department, 10 varieties, complete.	4 25
*U. S. Treasury Department, 11 varieties, complete	11 00
*U. S. War Department, 11 varieties, complete	5 00
U. S. Postage due, 30c., red-brown	60
U. S. Revenue, Playing Cards, Dougherty, 10c.blue.	1 25
Western Australia, 1860. 6d. imperf., slight nick at r.	3 00

* Signifies unused. I can supply hundreds of other similar bargains. Correspondence with buyers solicited. Letters of inquiry and orders of less than $1.00 must contain 3c. extra for postage. I have a good supply of most of the above. In case they are out of stock when your order is received, money will be refunded. Remit by money order or bills.

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